

REMARKS

Applicant has carefully considered the matters raised by the Examiner in the outstanding Office Action but remains of the opinion that patentable subject matter is present. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the Examiner's position based on the above amendments to the claims and the following remarks.

The present invention teaches a method for cleaning dishware in a conventional dish washing machine. One of the novel aspects of the invention is the use of an initial steaming step performed prior to any washing with water.

The preliminary steaming step of the present invention is designed to loosen the hard to remove food matter and grime so as to increase the efficiency of the washing step.

In order to emphasize that the steaming step is conducted before any washing step, claims 1 and 2 have been amended herein to state that the steaming step is prior to any washing. Support for these two claim amendments can be found on page 2, paragraph 2 and page 6 paragraph 3 of the specification where it states that the steaming step of the present invention is done first, prior to any washing with water.

Claims 1 and 2 had been rejected as being unpatentable over Oguri. The Examiner had stated that Oguri teaches a method for operating a dishwasher comprising a preliminary washing step, a steam washing step, and a main washing step.

Applicant agrees with the Examiner's interpretation of Oguri. However, Applicant is of the position that the present invention differs from Oguri with regard to the sequence of performance of the steam washing step and the washing step.

Oguri teaches that a preliminary washing step is to be executed prior to the steam washing step (column 1, lines 38-48). Oguri further states that the preliminary washing step is conducted using cool water (column 1, line 41-44).

In contrast to Oguri, claims 1 and 2 of the Application recite that the steaming step is executed prior to any washing step. As noted above, Applicant has amended claims 1 and 2 to recite that the steaming is conducted prior to any washing.

Claim 1 had also been rejected since the term "steaming" lacked antecedent basis. Applicant has herein amended claim 1 as correction. In particular, the term "steam cleaning" has been amended to read "steaming" in order to provide basis.

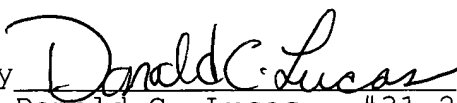
In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this Application is in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested. Should any fees or extensions of time be necessary in order to maintain this Application in pending condition, appropriate requests are hereby made and authorization given to debit account #02-2275.

Respectfully submitted,

MUSERLIAN, LUCAS AND MERCANTI

DCL:pd

Tel. 212-661-8000
Fax. 212-661-8002

By 
Donald C. Lucas - #31,275
Attorney for Applicant